

THE MILITANT

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Memorial marks lives cut short by Hamas at the Nova Festival
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE VOL. 90/NO. 26 JULY 27, 2026

US rulers begin new assault on Tehran, demand Iran stand down

BY SETH GALINSKY

Washington has carried out daily intense military strikes on hundreds of targets in Iran since July 11, after Tehran ignored President Donald Trump's ultimatum for the regime to issue a public statement saying the Strait of Hormuz is open and that it won't attack ships passing through it.

In response, Tehran attacked more commercial ships and launched missiles and drones at U.S. bases in Oman, Qatar, Jordan, Kuwait and Bahrain.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon sent 20 U.S. warships, including two aircraft carriers, back toward the Arab-Persian Gulf to restart a blockade of Iran's ports. Shipments of food and medicine are exempt, subject to U.S. Navy inspections. The impact of the blockade will fall hardest on working people in Iran, exacerbating shortages and stoking further price rises.

"We are going to knock out all their power plants. We're going to knock out all their bridges unless they get to the table and negotiate," Trump said July 14,

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Demonstrations denounce ICE killings in Maine and Houston

BY ALICIA KINCAID

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Department of Homeland Security has sharply escalated its arrests and deportation of immigrant workers in the U.S. In just three days, from July 7-9, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents incarcerated more than 6,000 people.

As part of these operations, ICE agents shot and killed Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, a 52-year-old construction worker, as he was driving to work in Houston July 7.

Salgado owned a construction business and was taking three other work-

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AS WE GO TO PRESS ...

Six days after Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents shot and killed Lorenzo Salgado Araujo in Houston, ICE forces chased and then killed 26-year-old Joan Sebastian Guerrero, originally from Colombia, as he left his home in the small town of Biddeford in Maine July 13.

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Sugar workers at C&H win support in ongoing fight against boss attacks



Militant/Ellen Brickley

ILWU Local 142 delegation from Hawaii joined solidarity rally of 200 July 13 at C&H sugar refinery in Crockett, California, supporting 91 warehouse workers on strike since June 15.

BY JEFF POWERS

CROCKETT, Calif. — "The longshoremen's union has a long history fighting for the rights of sugar workers in Hawaii," Chris West, president of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 142 from Honolulu, told a solidarity rally of over 200 people outside the C&H Sugar plant July 13. Ninety-one warehouse work-

ers, members of ILWU Local 6, have been on strike here since June 15.

West headed up a delegation of 15 Local 142 members who came from Hawaii to show their solidarity. "Your fight is for all of us," he said.

"It is about protecting retiree healthcare, preserving seniority, defending daily overtime, and refusing to surren-

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UN meeting, US protests say 'End US blockade of Cuba!'

Cuba's revolution: Example for workers worldwide



Militant/Roy Landersen

Some 50 people joined protest in New York July 11 demanding, "U.S. hands off Cuba!" Passersby lent their support. Similar protests are taking place worldwide, more are needed!

UN Gen'l Assembly debates US blockade of Cuba, war threats

BY JANET POST

"Against Cuba, the United States government is waging a multidimensional, unconventional war that has lasted for almost seven decades and has become more brutal and ruthless in the last seven months," Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla told a special session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York July 7.

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Street protests, meetings press for end to US attacks

BY RÓGER CALERO

NEW YORK — Fifty people held a spirited picket line July 11 demanding an end to Washington's brutal oil blockade, other far-reaching sanctions and war threats against Cuba. The action, sponsored by the New York/New Jersey Cuba Sí Coalition, was held near the busy entrance to Grand Central Station in midtown Manhattan.

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Imperialist rivalries deepen as NATO powers step up war drive

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The July 7-8 summit of imperialist and other governments in the NATO military alliance exposed deepening rifts between the U.S. rulers and their

main rivals in Europe, despite President Donald Trump claiming there was "a lot of unity."

The gathering in Ankara, Turkey, was held as ruling classes on all sides are re-arming and looking for reliable allies for future wars. Their race to maximize profits by grabbing markets and strate-

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Fight to desegregate schools in the South built movement to overturn Jim Crow

BY TERRY EVANS

By the mid-1950s growing numbers of African Americans were stepping forward to fight to overturn the widespread denial of voting rights and the racial segregation of public services, like city bus lines and schools across the South.

Significant changes coming out of the second imperialist world war —

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— On the picket line, p. 11 —

Montreal Metro supermarket strikers reject low wage offer

Hotel workers fight to make Philadelphia an all-union city

Montreal actions protest deadly cop attacks on Afghani youth

BY PHILIPPE TESSIER

MONTREAL — Eight months after a police officer shot and killed 15-year-old Nooran Rezayi in Longueuil on Sept. 21, 2025, setting off protests, police here announced not that charges were being lodged against an officer, but that criminal charges were being laid against 11 of his teenage friends and schoolmates.

A report by the Bureau of Independent Investigations (BEI) into the killing of Rezayi has not been made public. Rezayi was killed while he was sitting on the curb talking with five friends.

Five of the 11 young people charged June 30 have been arrested. They face accusations of conspiracy to kidnap, conspiracy to commit assault, wearing a disguise for criminal purposes, illegal possession of weapons and unlawful assembly. The youth were all aged between 13 and 17 at the time of the shooting. What these charges have to do with the shooting of Rezayi has not been explained.

Conspiracy charges should set off an alarm for all workers. Authorities use them when they have no actual crime to charge.

The police press conference announcing the charges “fails to answer the most fundamental questions raised by this case,” Fernando Belton, a lawyer for the Rezayi family, told the *Journal de Montreal*. “Namely, why the police officers shot Nooran, who, 19 seconds before their arrival, was sitting on the sidewalk with his cellphone.”

Rezayi’s family has filed a civil lawsuit for 2.2 million Canadian dollars (\$1.6 million) against the city of Longueuil and its police force for using “unreasonable and disproportionate force.”

Over 1,000 of the Rezayi family’s neighbors, his schoolmates and others participated in a protest demanding “End Police Violence — Justice for Nooran” in the week following the killing. Hundreds came to his funeral, including large numbers from the Afghan community of which his family is part.

The new accusations against the 11 youth follow months of systematic police harassment.

“Since Nooran’s death, the young people have faced humiliation at the hands of the police,” the mother of one of the accused told the press. Police “chase them at the mall and at McDonald’s. They’re looking for any excuse to charge them.”

The question of whether the police officer who killed Rezayi should face any charges is in the hands of the Bureau of Independent Investigations whose inquiry is carried out hand in hand with the Montreal police.

“How can one claim independence when a police force is deeply involved in a BEI investigation that is supposed to be free from any interference?” said Belton. The Bureau of Independent Investigations is a police agency, with 50% of its investigators former cops. Out of the 493 investigations it has carried out since its creation, not a single one has led to a guilty verdict



Militant/Lynda Little

Protest in Montreal Sept. 27, 2025, after police shot Afghani immigrant youth Nooran Rezayi. Instead of arresting the cops who killed Rezayi, authorities are harassing, arresting area youth.

against a police officer.

Hundreds of people demonstrated against racial profiling in the Montreal-North neighborhood June 15 after authorities announced the suspension of 16 police officers over charges they had engaged in racial targeting of Arabs and blacks. Among other things, cops are accused of cutting off the dreadlocks of young black men who they arrest to keep as “trophy.” Radio-Canada also reported that tickets issued for driving offenses were allegedly issued solely on the basis of a person’s ethnic background. Two cops have been suspended and 14 others who are under investigation have been reassigned.

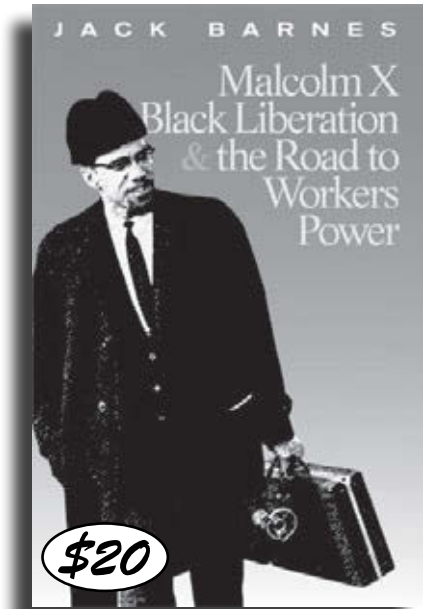
Cops target black and Arab youth

“There are at least 20 people in my circle who have been victims of racial profiling. It’s part of our daily lives,” Pamela Petit-Frere told demonstrators. Montreal Mayor Soraya Martinez Ferrada said her husband, who is black, has been stopped while driving “at least five or six times — for nothing” in the past year. Black people in Montreal are four times more likely to be stopped than Caucasians, while people of Arab descent are five times more likely to be stopped.

Substantial protests against cop brutality were organized at the same Montreal-North police station in 2008, after the cop killing of 18-year-

old Freddy Villanueva. The BEI was created by authorities in 2016 as a way to try and calm widespread outrage over Villanueva’s death.

“Working people need to demand that the cop who killed Rezayi is charged and the harassment and frame-up of his friends and schoolmates is ended,” said Joe Young, Communist League candidate for the St. Laurent district in October’s provincial elections. “Only by organizing disciplined protests, like the ones that protested Rezayi’s killing last September, can we expose and push back cop brutality.”



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THE MILITANT

Montgomery movement dealt blow to Jim Crow

The victorious Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott in 1956 marked a new stage in the mighty battle against racist segregation. The ‘Militant’ is featuring a series of articles exploring the overall impact of the defeat of Jim Crow on the U.S. class struggle.



AP/Gene Herrick
E.D. Nixon escorts Rosa Parks, center, into Montgomery courthouse March 19, 1956.

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Fight to overthrow Jim Crow

Continued from front page

especially the rise of struggles for independence sweeping Africa, Latin America and Asia — were having an impact on Blacks and other workers in the U.S. This came on top of the experiences that workers, Black and Caucasian, went through building industrial trade unions in the 1930s.

Thousands of courageous youth were ready to take action to challenge the Jim Crow setup.

These political developments were a wake-up call to some in the capitalist ruling class who began to consider they needed to make some adjustments to defend their profit-driven system.

In 1954 the U.S. Supreme Court held school segregation unconstitutional in its *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling.

The court combined five cases against school segregation, including one that arose from a walkout by the entire student body at Moton High School, in Farmville, Virginia, in 1951 to protest conditions at the all-Black school. The unanimous 1954 decision reversed the notorious 1896 *Plessey v. Ferguson* Supreme Court ruling that justified the “separate but equal” policy that was used to impose racial segregation. One year later, in 1955, the court ordered state governments to carry out desegregation “with all deliberate speed.”

The court’s decision was met with defiance by segregationist state and local authorities across the South, backed by the Ku Klux Klan and other racist thugs. At the same time, demands grew from working people for the federal government to use its armed might to intervene to enforce equal rights. It would take a mass movement — a historic watershed in U.S. history — over the next two decades to make school desegregation a reality.

On Aug. 26, 1956, 12 Black students were admitted to the high school in Clinton, Tennessee, the first Blacks in an integrated school anywhere in the South since the decadelong Reconstruction Era after the overthrow of slavery in the Civil War.

But they faced a systematic effort to drive them out. Each day a mob outside chanted racial slurs. Inside the Black students faced violent assaults.

But they also won support. Principal D.J. Brittain Jr., who disagreed with desegregation, decided it was now the law of the land and he would try to protect the Black students. Jo Ann Allen Boyce was one of the 12 Black students. On their first day in high school, “one young lady nominated me to be vice president of my homeroom,” she wrote later.

A number of Caucasian students on the football team patrolled the hall to protect Black students. On one occasion team members pulled three Black students from a mob that had chased and beaten them.

Over the Sept. 1-2 weekend, an anti-Black riot erupted in the town. Cars were overturned, windows smashed and African Americans threatened. Dynamite was thrown into the Black neighborhood.

“The Ku Klux Klan would drive through and intimidate everyone,” Boyce recalled in a 2023 radio interview. So “the Black men in the neighborhood set up their own sort of, ‘Let’s keep us safe,’” she said, organizing armed self-defense and patrol-

ling Black neighborhoods. Faced with the willingness of African Americans to defend themselves, Gov. Frank G. Clement decided he had to take steps to halt the violence and called in the National Guard.

But violent assaults targeting the students and their supporters continued. Crosses were burned on lawns and shots fired at the homes of the Black students. Rev. Paul Turner, a Baptist minister, along with two other courageous Caucasians, volunteered to escort the students. Within hours of taking the students to school, Turner was severely beaten by a segregationist mob.

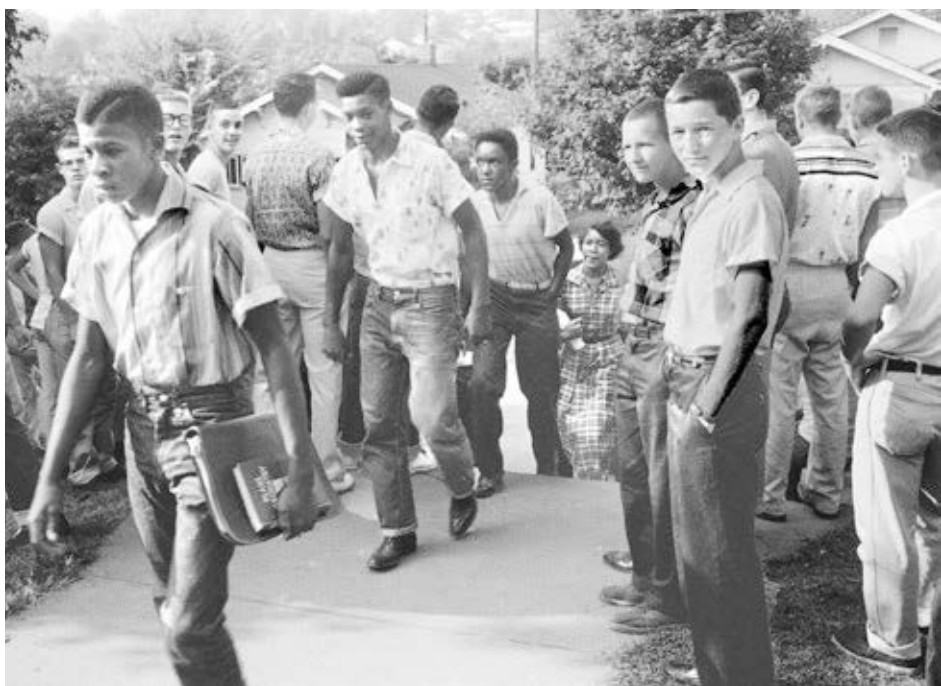
In response, authorities closed the school for a week, but a federal judge reaffirmed a court order backing school desegregation.

The Black students and the allies they won prevailed. In May 1957 Bobby Cain graduated from Clinton High School, the first African American to advance from an integrated school in the South. In retaliation, the school was firebombed and largely destroyed in October 1958, but by then a movement to end segregation had taken root.

Battle of Little Rock

During the 1956 presidential election both the Democratic challenger, Adlai Stevenson, and Republican incumbent Dwight D. Eisenhower vowed never to use federal authority to enforce the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling. Only Farrell Dobbs, the Socialist Workers Party candidate who had been active in the Montgomery bus boycott, called for full and speedy federal enforcement of school desegregation, including the use of federal troops.

Months after the election, some 27,000 people from across the coun-



Library of Congress/Thomas J. O'Halloran

Defying Ku Klux Klan threats, Bobby Cain led Black students into Clinton High School in Tennessee in 1956. He was the first Black to graduate from a desegregated school in the South.

try mobilized for a Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom to Washington D.C., one of the first national mass actions of the civil rights movement. A large crowd gathered in Montgomery, Alabama — where the groundbreaking bus boycott was solid and winning nationwide support — to send off a delegation to join the action.

As the movement to end Jim Crow school segregation grew, Eisenhower reluctantly deployed federal troops to defend nine Black students who were being blocked by racist mobs from attending Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, Sept. 25, 1957.

The NAACP there had recruited the nine and prepared them for the intimidation they’d face. NAACP leader Daisy Bates organized eight of the nine students to march together to the school on their first day, where they were turned away by the National Guard deployed by Gov. Orval Faubus.

The ninth Black student, Elizabeth Eckford, arrived alone later and

was surrounded by a screaming mob of segregationists. Passerby Grace Lorch fought her way through the crowd, shouting at them, “Leave this child alone.” She escorted Eckford onto a bus and home to safety.

For three weeks Faubus defied a federal desegregation order, before Eisenhower decided he had no choice but to deploy the 101st Airborne to Little Rock. The federal troops escorted the students each day. In the fall of 1958, Faubus closed all four Little Rock high schools, until the Supreme Court ruled his order unconstitutional. In 1959 the schools reopened, enrolling both African American and Caucasian students.

The battle at Little Rock was widely covered in the national media and watched by working people around the country, providing inspiration for struggles to desegregate schools in Louisiana, Mississippi and across the South — and in some northern cities, like Boston — in the years that followed.

Striking California C&H sugar workers win support

Continued from front page

der the hard-earned rights won by generations of union workers,” his local said in a statement.

Tens of thousands of sugar cane cutters were members of the ILWU in Hawaii before the last plantation closed in December 2016. The last shipload of Hawaiian sugar to C&H — which originally stood for “California and Hawaii” — was a month later. Now the sugar refined by the plant is grown worldwide.

“There is a meeting today with the federal mediator, management and the union, and another scheduled for Wednesday,” Local 6 striker Joshua Lopez told the *Militant*. “We organized this rally to show support for our bargaining committee who are going to be part of the negotiations.”

The ILWU members from Hawaii were joined by longshoremen from Local 10 in San Francisco; Tugboat workers, members of the Inlandboatmen’s Union; office workers, members of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; and Teamsters on an organizing campaign at Amazon. Filipino youth organizations, students and other young people from throughout the Bay Area joined in

The crowd marched behind the bargaining committee to the company offices, where negotiations resumed.

Since the beginning, of the strike C&H management has harassed Local 6 members peacefully picketing in front

of the plant. So far four workers have been fired on trumped-up charges of picket line violence.

“Human Resources called me at home and said I was fired,” Robin Pittman, who has 24 years seniority, told the *Militant*. “I was falsely accused of stabbing a security guard with the sharp end of a picket sign—only our picket signs don’t have sharp ends. The guard also claimed I growled at him!”

“The union is fighting my firing even though I plan to retire once the strike is over,” he said. “The bosses are just trying to intimidate us. They are not going to succeed.”

Over 250 production workers, members of the Sugar Workers Union affiliated with the Seafarers International Union, vote July 15 whether or not to join the strike. Up to now, they’ve been working while Local 6 has been on the picket line. Strikers have been discussing with these co-workers how to bring their union into a common fight against the company takebacks.

New shipments of raw sugar have not made it into the refinery. The sugar-loaded cargo ship *Tai Herald* finally docked at the Port of Richmond, 12 nautical miles away from the plant.

Some raw sugar has been unloaded there, despite the fact Local 10 has been picketing the terminal, protesting any attempt by C&H management to truck the sugar to Crockett. The raw sugar that has been unloaded is now sit-

ting on the ground in an area marked for decades as a Superfund site by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency due to DDT contamination in the water and soil there. C&H has rebuffed union charges that this will damage the integrity of the finished product, saying, “There is no difference in using this terminal or using the refinery’s.”

“This was a serious public relations misstep by the company,” striker Kendra Sparks told the *Militant*, since it suggests the bosses don’t take food quality seriously. So far, the company has not tried to truck the off-loaded sugar through the picket lines into the plant.

Then, overnight on July 10-11 the company had the *Tai Herald*, still partially laden with sugar from the Philippines, sail from Richmond to dock at the C&H plant — an open challenge to the longshore union. But as of press time, the company has made no attempt to unload the sugar. ILWU longshoremen who work at the Oakland, San Francisco, Stockton and other Bay Area ports have refused to offload the ship.

Solidarity is needed! Send a letter from your union local, your co-workers or your organization to ILWU Local 6, 99 Hegenberger Road, Oakland, CA 94621. Join the picket line in front of C&H in Crockett! Contribute to the strike fund at square.link/u/ifFpgkRO.

Eric Simpson from Oakland contributed to this article.

Protests hit LA gov’t failure to act over disasters and health problems

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

LOS ANGELES — The putrid odor hangs in the air with no relief, Idefonso Flores Aguilar, told the *Militant* 11 days after a fire broke out at the massive Lineage food storage warehouse in the Boyle Heights area here. “I went to the hospital three days ago. I had problems with my lungs. It was difficult to breathe. I had a cough, headaches and a bloody nose.” He said his sister lives in Montebello, more than 5 miles away, and says she can smell the smoke.

In addition to Lineage leasing the warehouse, Altus Power operates more than 300,000 square feet of solar panels on its roof.

When the fire broke out June 17 in this mostly Latino working-class area on the east side of Los Angeles, portions of the roof collapsed, making it unsafe for firefighters to enter. The 85 million pounds of frozen food inside included a good deal of meat, which is now rotting.

“I have to take naps with a mask on because I get sleepy from the smoke,” Seabreeze Dominguez, a manager for a nonprofit who lives on a block next to Lineage, said. “My mother has burning in her sinuses. You can’t use an air conditioner.” She and other neighbors said they were concerned about rats they see coming out of the warehouse.

It took the city government until July 1 to say it was going to set up some mobile clinics in the area.

Elisa lives less than one block from the plant and has three children. “My sister lives with us and has asthma. With the smell, she has headaches, coughs, can’t breathe and has cold and hot spells. So she is now living somewhere else with our parents. My 14-year-old son is affected worse also because of his asthma.” The fire burned for a week.

Kelvin Vasquez lives so close to the warehouse, he said he could watch the fire burn from inside his home. Vasquez’s health issues aren’t what worry him now, he said, it’s what will become of the tens of millions of pounds of food that have sat unrefrigerated for over a week. “It pretty much smells something like a dead body,” he said.

It took millions of gallons of water to fight the fire, creating a polluted stream carrying all kinds of debris and spoiled food out of the building.

Rosa Samaniego joined 50 neighbors who held a protest a block from the plant July 2 demanding the city get the area cleaned up faster. Many also demanded the warehouse not be allowed to reopen.

She said they want to be compensated for having to relocate. Her family got the Red Cross to pay for five nights in a hotel, but it’s not enough. Her husband is disabled. “I was the one who had to move everything,” she said, and we had to leave quickly.

“When the fire broke out and black smoke poured out over the area, the city issued a shelter-in-place order, but many workers had to keep working in the area,” Laura Garza, a railroad conductor and the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Los Angeles mayor, told people as she campaigned there. “This included rail workers and those who load and unload containers onto the rail cars.” Two major rail yards lay just south of the warehouse.

“We support the residents here who are demanding the government provide

funds to be compensated for what they lost, and to be relocated.”

Another disaster one month earlier

This fire came on the heels of another industrial crisis May 21 in Garden Grove, 30 miles south of here. A chemical spill from a giant tank at GKN Aerospace threatened a catastrophe, as the compromised tank contained methyl methacrylate, a highly flammable industrial chemical used in plastics and aerospace manufacturing. It began overheating and venting dangerous vapors into the air, looking increasingly like it would either burst, loosing a serious flow of the toxic chemical, or explode.

Some 50,000 people in the area were evacuated and it was cordoned off for five days. Luckily, a crack in the tank reduced the pressure and temperature inside it without an explosion.

UK-based GKN Aerospace is one of the world’s largest aerospace suppliers, operating 32 manufacturing sites across 12 countries with about 16,000 workers.

Cleanup of the site, scheduled to start June 4, was delayed due to what authorities called “unavailable resources.”

Boston, British Columbia nurses fight to improve contracts

BY LISA HICKLER

BOSTON — “Today we walked back into the Brigham together with our heads held high because we never stopped fighting for our patients,” Kelly Morgan, the Massachusetts Nursing Association Brigham Nurse Chair, told the press July 13.

Their return followed a noisy and spirited rally of over 1,000 nurses and their supporters held in front of the Brigham & Women’s Hospital here July 9. The nurses were locked out that morning following a one-day strike.

The hospital bosses claimed the lockout was because they have an “obligation” to give five days of work to replacement nurses they had to hire during the strike.

Hospitals are among the largest employers in Massachusetts, and Brigham & Women’s is the second largest in the state. Their strike was the largest nurses strike in state history. The union says the “billionaires and corporate executives” who run the hospital are refusing to negotiate a fair contract “that protects patients and supports the nurses who care for them.”

“I am so proud to be a Brigham nurse,” Morgan, said at the rally. “I am so proud to represent 4,000 workers in the fight for a fair contract, safe working conditions, workplace safety, protection from violence, reasonable health care costs and a fair wage.”

The nurses were joined by members of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, hotel workers from UNITE HERE Local 26, as well as nurses from Tufts Medical Center. A member of Carpenters Local 2168 told this *Militant* correspondent that union building trade workers inside the hospital put down their tools when the strike broke out. “Unions have to stick together,” he said.

Nurses had been organizing inside the hospital prior to the strike, including wearing black union T-shirts on Fridays.

In addition to the Brigham nurses, some 450 home care workers from Mass General Brigham, including registered



Militant/Bernie Senter

Residents protest July 9 in Boyle Heights area of Los Angeles over lack of action by city authorities to aid those affected by toxic air, water from fire at Lineage food warehouse June 17.

Working people bore the brunt of the financial repercussions, having to evacuate and pay for emergency hotel stays, meals and other necessities.

GKN Aerospace announced it gave \$3 million to the United Way to help area business owners and residents. But after just a week, the United Way said, “Due to the volume of applications received, and funding available, we are no longer accepting new applications.” It only covered costs up to \$500 per household.

“Both of these disasters show the bosses and their government protect big business, while showing disdain for the working class,” Garza said. “The Socialist Workers Party calls for workers control of production and safety,” she said. “We need to strengthen the unions to fight for our class interests. And we need to chart a course to take political power into our own hands to place the health and well-being of the working class front and center.”

nurses, occupational and physical therapists and others returned to work July 14 after a weeklong strike.

British Columbia nurses strike for a contract and better staffing

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — The 53,000 member BC Nurses Union here is expanding job actions in the province demanding a decent contract, better nurse-to-patient ratios, and protection from workplace violence and employer harassment.

The union’s actions began July 2 with a province-wide ban on performing “non-nursing duties” and overtime restrictions. The bosses responded with threats of discipline.

Hundreds of striking BC nurses set up a spirited picket line at Vancouver General Hospital, with signs saying, “Safe staffing/safe patient care.” Today there are some 4,500 nursing positions vacant, BC Nurses Union President Adrian Gear said.

They were joined July 7 by the Hospital Employees Union, the Health Sciences Association of BC, BC General Employees Union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the BC Teachers Federation, and the Canadian Animation Guild.

On July 9, top officers of the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions, the Ontario Nurses Association, and the United Nurses of Alberta joined various picket lines.

Union members voted by 98.2% to authorize a strike, then rejected a tentative agreement by 67%.

The Canadian Labor Congress said, “Canada’s unions and the more than 3 million workers we represent stand shoulder to shoulder with BC’s nurses.”

As we go to press the union has agreed to take down its picket lines on July 14 to spur mediation, while a province-wide ban on non-nursing duties and a restriction on overtime remains in effect.

— Fred Nelson and Ned Dmytryshyn

Ascension hospital bosses boost their profits by slashing away nurses’ jobs

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

With picket signs that read “Greed kills/nurses heal” and “Safe staffing saves lives,” nurses at Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital in Baltimore held a 24-hour strike against systematic understaffing July 6. The same day nearly 1,200 nurses struck two Ascension hospitals in Wichita, Kansas. The actions are part of a wave of protests and strikes by nurses on the front lines fighting for safety for both patients and nurses, and better working conditions.

There have been more than 30 strikes in the U.S. by nurses in 2026, and some 130 over the last five years.

Ascension, one of the largest health systems in the country, has for years aggressively slashed staffing in its zeal for profits, setting an example

other hospital bosses have adopted.

The company was created in 1999 through a merger of two hospital networks, many where facilities had been founded by nuns who ministered to the poor. Organized as a supposed nonprofit, which lets Ascension avoid millions in taxes each year, management set its sights on cutting costs, turning to its biggest expense — labor.

“Their whole approach to the finances was right out of the Wall Street playbook,” William Weeks, a retired executive of an Ascension five-hospital chain in Oklahoma, told the *New York Times*. Ascension bosses were proud of what they did, with two of its executives giving a presentation at a 2015 industry conference titled “Successful Labor Op-

Continued on page 5

Rhode Island museum: Rich history of Cape Verdean immigrants

BY RÓGER CALERO

PAWTUCKET, R.I. — The Cape Verdean Museum here is unique. Its displays of photos, posters, crafts and publications, almost all donated by community members, give a vivid feel for the experiences of many generations of immigrants from that West African island nation.

The museum documents the proud history of Cape Verdeans — going back to the early 19th century — who worked on U.S. whaling ships, as cranberry pickers and as unionized construction workers, settling in towns across Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Exhibits show their participation in working-class and other social struggles.

Displays illustrate the independence struggle in Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau against Portuguese colonial rule. They include documents from the independence movement and a prominent painting of its central leader, Amílcar Cabral.

On June 28 the museum hosted a presentation of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa*, by Cuban revolutionary leader Víctor Dreke. The book, published by Pathfinder, is available in the museum library. (See article on the event in the July 20 *Militant*.)

‘So we can tell our own history’

“Everybody put in their little piece, so we can tell our own history,” Joe DaMoura, the museum’s executive director, proudly told the *Militant*.

From maps, hooks, and other tools used by sailors on the whaling boats in the early 1800s, to records of arriving immigrants and their mutual aid societ-



Above, Militant/Róger Calero; inset, Cape Verdean Museum
Al Gomes, left, museum volunteer, explains Cape Verdean role in whaling industry to SWP leaders Paul Mailhot and Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde* June 28. Inset, Cape Verdeans labor on cranberry farm, early 1900s.

ies, to the wooden scoops for harvesting cranberries, the exhibits give a glimpse of the life and culture of Cape Verdeans on both sides of the Atlantic.

Volunteer museum guides tell visitors the story of the thousands of Cape Verdeans who came to the U.S. escaping chronic drought, famine and other colonial hardships. Many came on “packet boats,” whaling vessels repurposed after the decline of that industry in the 1920s to take passengers, mail and supplies between the U.S. and Cape Verde.

A glass case contains letters sent to families back home. A “dry” letter contained only greetings and news, explained museum founder Yvonne Smart, currently its education coordinator and curator. A “wet” letter had

money in it. The names alluded to Cape Verde’s history of droughts. “We called it a wet letter because it was symbolic of the rain. When you have rain, you have hope and prosperity.”

“My grandfather was one of those who came in the packet boats,” said volunteer guide Al Gomes. “He arrived in 1910 and worked in the cranberry bogs. He was drafted into the U.S. Army when World War I broke out, served in the all-Black 367th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, and survived the trenches in France.”

A retired union construction and shipyard worker himself, Gomes pointed to photos of members of Local 1329 of the International Longshoremen’s Association, the first predominantly Cape Verdean and Black labor union in

Ascension bosses jack up profits off the backs of its nurses

Continued from page 4

timization Efforts.” They boasted they had saved the corporation nearly \$500 million in just three years.

As part of this drive, the chain laid off thousands in 2013. The more they cut costs, the higher Ascension’s executives’ salaries grew. The company posted a profit of \$608 million in the six months ending Dec. 31, while Ascension CEO Joseph Impicicche was paid an obscene \$12,281,151 in 2025.

The losers in this setup are the patients and the overworked, understaffed nurses trying to care for them.

Many of the nearly 5,000 hospitals in the U.S., the majority run as so-called nonprofits, have cut staffing so close to the bone that when COVID-19 hit in 2020, already horrible conditions spiraled out of control. At Washington state’s St. Michael Medical Center, run by CommonSpirit Health, things got so bad in October that year the nurse in charge of the emergency room called 911 dispatchers, who sent fire department personnel to help care for patients.

In 2018, Ascension acquired Saint Joseph Medical Center, the only hospital in Joliet, Illinois. It employed 791 nurses. By 2022, their numbers had been chopped by 23%.

In 2020 nurses there filed hundreds of complaints with the hospital about conditions. “Every day it’s unsafe staffing!!!” one nurse wrote, underlining “every day” four times. By October 2022, nurses in the emergency room refused to clock in because they were being asked to care for 11 patients

each, more than double the recommended four.

At Genesys Hospital outside Flint, Michigan, one of a handful of unionized Ascension hospitals, administrators weren’t in a position to lay off workers. Instead, they froze hiring in 2018. By 2022, the number of nurses there had fallen by 30%.

Bosses demand 16-hour shifts

The pandemic exposed the results of Ascension bosses’ profit-driven cuts, as patients spent hours on gurneys waiting for care and surgeries were delayed. To keep things running, Genesys bosses demanded nurses work 16-hour shifts. When some refused, managers threatened to fire them, or wrote them up, claiming their refusal “is not in line with our value of dedication.”

Instead of hiring more nurses, Ascension started deploying robots to watch patients at risk of falling or who suffered from dementia. Nurses told the *Times* that many of the patients were confused by the disembodied voices coming from the robots, which the nurses called “sitters on a stick.”

One Genesys nurse, who had nearly 30 years of overall healthcare experience, told the *Times* the turning point for her was when a patient died in a manner she believed was a result of unsafe patient-nurse staffing ratios. “Can I say that it was 100% a staffing issue?” she asked. “I cannot say that. But if you’re going to ask me what my gut instinct as a nurse of 26 years is, yes, I think that it probably was.”

In January 2024, National Nurses United — the largest union of registered nurses in the country — said Ascension, one of the wealthiest hospital chains, had cut a quarter of its labor and delivery units with a disproportionate impact on low-income, Black and Latino communities, to increase profits further.

Driven by these conditions, there have been at least seven strikes at Ascension-affiliated hospitals since 2021, with demands for safe staffing at the center of all of them. Over the last four years more than 2,500 nurses at Ascension hospitals across the country have joined the union.

In June 2023, nearly 2,000 registered nurses fighting for their first union contract held one-day strikes in Texas and Kansas at three Ascension hospitals. The strikes were the largest nurses strikes in the history of both states.

In Wichita at Via Christi St. Francis and Via Christi St. Joseph hospitals, management, instead of hiring nurses had a policy of “floating” nurses, that is, sending them to units they may not be trained for. In Austin, Texas, the bosses wanted nurses with as little as 18 months’ experience to be sent to take charge of labor and delivery units.

When the hospitals didn’t respond to their first strike, the nurses went out again in December 2023. In both cases, Ascension management locked the nurses out for three days, blocking them from returning to work.

Despite the bosses’ actions, nurses at all three hospitals ratified their first-ever union contracts early in 2024.

New England, founded in 1933. They show the union taking part in Labor Day parades and union picnics.

Support to independence struggle

Smart, like other Cape Verdean Americans of her generation, was active both in supporting the African anti-colonial struggle and in the civil rights battles in the U.S. in the 1970s.

The fight against Portuguese colonial rule had a big impact within the Cape Verdean community here, said Gomes. Initially “there was fear and ambivalence among the older generation. But the younger generation was jubilant and excited” — including Gomes himself, who was 14 at the time Portuguese colonialism was defeated in 1974.

“The U.S.-born youth of my age group were getting both sides of the story, from our parents’ generation and from new Cape Verdean immigrants,” he said. Some of the latter described the brutal realities of colonial rule and how they had been drafted into the Portuguese army to fight their own brothers and sisters battling for independence in Angola, Mozambique or Guinea-Bissau.

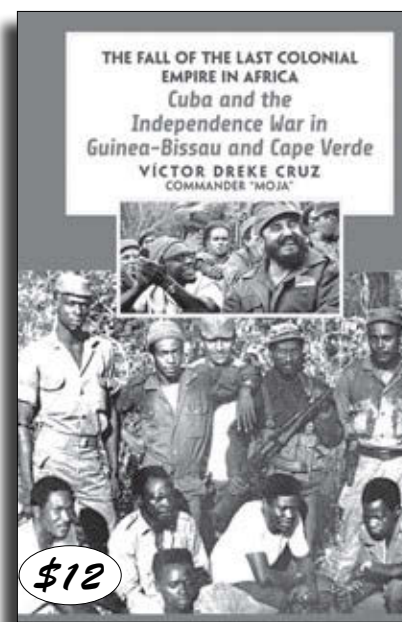
The museum also features exhibits on the transatlantic slave trade, the diverse music styles of Cape Verde, and textiles of historic and cultural significance. One exhibit highlights the Jewish roots woven into the country’s rich cultural fabric, a heritage many Cape Verdeans speak proudly of. Jews first immigrated to the islands in the 16th century, fleeing the Inquisition in Spain and Portugal, and a second wave came from Morocco in the 1800s.

The latest addition to the exhibits celebrates Cape Verde’s national soccer team, the Blue Sharks, who in this year’s World Cup became the smallest nation to reach the knockout stage.

Expressions of pride in this rich history and culture were on display at this year’s July 5 Cape Verdean Independence Day celebrations in several towns in the region. The Cape Verdean Museum had a prominent role at the festivities in Providence.

Members of the Socialist Workers Party joined local residents at the celebrations in both Providence and New Bedford. They set up literature tables that drew interest in books on revolutionary working-class politics. Dozens picked up copies of the new book by Víctor Dreke, as well as other titles on African liberation struggles and the Cuban Revolution.

To learn more about the museum in Pawtucket, visit capeverdeanmuseum.org.



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Iran toilers mount protests amid ongoing war and gov't repression

BY SETH GALINSKY

“Inflation, high prices, no to war and destruction,” chanted dozens of retired workers in Shush in Iran’s Khuzestan province. “Livelihood and dignity are our undeniable rights.” Their action was just one of more than a dozen protests or strikes across the country on July 12 and 13 by retirees, coal miners, railroad workers, truck drivers, bakers, nurses and medical students.

New protests are taking place every day. While most raise economic demands, many include calls for freeing union and political prisoners and an end to the death penalty. The fact that the protests and strikes take place during the U.S. war and an increase in government repression, shows the depth of opposition among workers to the reactionary regime.

Retirees at the July 12 action in Gilan chanted, “Imprisoned workers must be freed,” “No to executions,” and “Oppression and injustice have driven us to the streets.”

Hundreds of truck drivers marched through the streets of Tehran July 12 to protest having paid thousands of dollars for new trucks that were never delivered. They have continued their protest every day since, even sleeping overnight on the sidewalk, vowing, “We will not leave until we get our rights.”

The protesters stood their ground after they were attacked by police wielding nightsticks and pepper spray July 15. During the clash the truckers yelled at the cops, “Bisharaf!” — an insult meaning you are shameless and have no honor.

“We condemn any attack or assault against drivers under any pretext,” said a statement by the Nationwide Drivers Coordinating Committee. “Protesting is not a crime, it is the legal right of citizens.”

Coal miners at the Tazareh mine in Damghan, in Semnan province, went on strike July 12 to protest unpaid wages, unpaid insurance contributions and disregard for their rights.

These actions reflect growing opposition to the regime’s wars, its attacks on Israel, its actions that give U.S. imperialism a pretext for its assaults and its use of working people and oppressed nationalities in Iran as cannon fodder.

“Why should uranium be enriched?” asks a post on the Bazaar

Civil Protest website. “Is the goal to build a bomb — a bomb that could ultimately endanger the lives of innocent people, including women and children and bring destruction?”

Opposition to the regime’s stepped-up use of the death penalty against both those accused of criminal offenses and political prisoners is growing.

On July 13, hundreds of prisoners at the Ghezel Hesar Prison in Karaj, near Tehran, began a hunger strike to protest the move of six inmates — sentenced to death on drug charges — to solitary confinement, a prelude to their execution. The prisoners released a video of hundreds of hunger strikers sitting in the cell-block hallways calling for abolishing the death penalty.

Opposition to the regime forcing workers to pay the cost of its military adventures and provocations is even reflected in the pro-regime media. The government-funded Iranian Labour News Agency ran an article July 14 that described how the bosses have used the war to accelerate their



Top, garment workers at Barak textile factory in Khorasan province protest layoffs, wage arrears, denial of unemployment insurance. Above, retired steel and communications workers in Isfahan. Iranian Labour News Agency admits that bosses have taken advantage of the war to “evade” their responsibilities and prevent workers from striking.

attacks on workers’ wages, conditions and rights, claiming they’re forced to do so by circumstances beyond their control.

“Before the war, Iranian workers were struggling on a silent battlefield with temporary contracts, inadequate wages, etc.,” the article noted. Layoffs and wage cuts “placed the heaviest cost on the labor force.”

The article pointed out that even “before the first missiles were fired” workers were fighting to keep from

falling below the poverty line.

“But the outbreak of the recent war turned the tide,” the article says. “The employers turned the crisis into an opportunity to evade their minimum legal obligations.” Workers were told that “defense of national security” meant that “any work stoppage was prohibited.”

Iranian Labour News counseled workers to protest but not go on strike. Fewer workers today are willing to accept that ad vice.

US rulers new assault on Tehran, demand Iran stand down

Continued from front page threatening devastating airstrikes.

While Trump has declared that the April 8 ceasefire and subsequent “Memorandum of Understanding” are over, U.S. officials told the *Wall Street Journal* that the purpose of the U.S. measures is to “pressure the regime back to the negotiating table.”

The central goal of Washington’s war — and its negotiations — is to force the Iranian regime to cooperate so the U.S. rulers can impose some measure of stability that would allow them to defend and advance their domination of the region.

Washington sees that as the road to maximize profits for the U.S. rulers from the exploitation of oil, gas and other natural resources in the Middle East, and to push back encroachment by their rivals in Beijing and beyond. The U.S. rulers have no intention of

allowing Tehran to control maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

Israel, which earlier dealt significant blows to Iran’s military and nuclear capacity, has not been involved in the latest fighting.

Unlike Washington’s, Israel’s war has been defensive, aimed at preventing Tehran and its allies — from Hezbollah to Hamas — from launching more pogroms against Jews and Israel on the road to a new Holocaust. The pro-regime press in Iran continues to call Israel “a cancerous tumor” that must be removed.

Hezbollah, Tehran’s strongest proxy

Since the start of the ceasefire, Tehran has not launched new direct attacks on Israel. It’s hoping that it can use Washington’s determination to strike a deal to get the White House to keep up its pressure on Israel to prevent it from dealing decisive blows to Hezbollah.

Despite the destruction of Tehran’s air defense systems and much of its ballistic missiles and arms production, the Iranian rulers’ faction-ridden regime is hoping it still can inflict enough damage to win concessions from Washington, especially in Lebanon.

Based among Shiite Muslims, who make up just a third of Lebanon’s population, Hezbollah is more powerful than the Lebanese Army. Trained, financed, armed and to some extent directly led by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Hezbollah shares Tehran’s goal of destroying Israel and eliminating the Jews there.

Hezbollah is key to Tehran’s attempts to recover its waning influence in the region and rebuild its capacities to destroy Israel.

Israel’s daily *Haaretz* notes that Teh-

ran’s current “restraint” is because the reactionary regime is trying to preserve its military capability “for a time of its own choosing.”

To prevent Hezbollah from continuing to attack northern Israel and prevent it from carrying out pogroms against Jews, the Israel Defense Forces now occupy a wide swath of southern Lebanon.

Hezbollah’s web of tunnels

Until Israel captured Lebanon’s historic Beaufort Castle and the surrounding heights, just 3 miles from the Israeli border on May 31, Hezbollah had used a web of tunnels — built with Tehran’s assistance — underneath the fortress to fire hundreds of rockets at northern Israel.

One of the tunnels is nearly a mile long with living quarters, kitchenettes and “an exceptional” quantity of arms, including anti-aircraft systems, Israeli soldiers say.

Just a few miles away is another “strategic” underground facility at Ali Taher ridge. But Washington has blocked Israel from capturing and destroying it. The Trump administration does not want the Lebanon “ceasefire” disrupted, regardless of the danger Hezbollah poses to Jews.

The Israeli and Lebanese governments resumed negotiations in Rome July 14 on establishing two “pilot zones” in Lebanon where Israeli forces would pull back and be replaced by the Lebanese Armed Forces. Hezbollah opposes the pilot zones and says it will fight any attempt to force it to disarm.

Israeli officials have made it clear their troops will not withdraw from southern Lebanon as long as Hezbollah remains a threat.



Workers at Neyshabur University of Medical Sciences in Khorasan province protest July 13 over unpaid wages. Amid war with U.S. rulers, protests continue to take place in Iran every day.

Memorial marks lives cut short by Hamas at the Nova Festival

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

RE'IM, Israel — On July 11, a group of us were taken by our hosts, Vered and Itzik Benayoun, to visit the site of the Nova Festival, now a memorial to the nearly 400 mainly young participants in the all-night dance festival who were murdered or taken hostage in the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas pogrom. They were part of the 1,200 killed, thousands wounded, and more than 250 abducted in southern Israel that day solely because they were Jewish or associated with Jews.

Wherever we turn, we witness a sea of photos of the victims with biographies of their lives, achievements and contributions cut short by the massacre. The main stage, the dance floor, the “Little Bar.” The dumpster in which people sought shelter, only to be shot through the casing. The camp site of hundreds of tents where women and men were tortured, subjected to rape and other sexual violence, starting at 6:29 a.m. and continuing for hours.

We cannot fail but imagine the blood-

soaked ground, the hell inflicted by the Nazi-like Hamas death squads and leaders who planned and organized the assault with their sponsors and financiers at the top levels of the counterrevolutionary capitalist regime in Iran.

We approached the site by car along Highway 232, the highway of death from Gaza. We stopped at the tiny shelter by the bus stop near the Re'im kibbutz, where the lives of 27 people seeking refuge were ruthlessly ended.

The Nova Festival site continues to be visited by busloads of visitors. Our group — including Socialist Workers Party members Rachele Fruit and Lea Sherman, and Ólöf Andra Proppé and myself, members of the Communist League in the United Kingdom — made the trip on a Saturday. We've been in Israel to take part in the July 7-9 Contemporary Antisemitism Conference at the University of Haifa. (See coverage in a coming issue.)

Pretty well everyone we talked with at the Nova site were Israelis. Some



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

SWP member Rachele Fruit, right, and CL member Ólöf Andra Proppé view bus stop near Re'im kibbutz, where 27 people seeking refuge Oct. 7, 2023, were murdered by Hamas thugs.

were visiting for the first time, some had come many times. “Some Israelis still cannot come — it's simply too painful,” Sergeant Schmuël Moshe told us. Moshe is a member of the army unit that permanently guards the site. He is also head of security for the nearby Yashe community. He's talking with an Israeli couple, formerly from Argentina. They brought their cousin, who had just arrived in Israel with his soccer-playing son, for the Maccabiah Games.

Other military fortifications around the site perimeter are under construction to guard against any attack on visitors, Moshe tells us. A large sign reads: “Please note this area is under the threat of rockets, the time available here to reach the shelter is 15 seconds. If you receive an alert — lie on the ground and protect your head with your hands for 10 minutes.”

The day before, we visited Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center and History Museum in Jerusalem, another experience you don't want to pass up if you visit Israel. Although on a different scale, the parallels are striking.

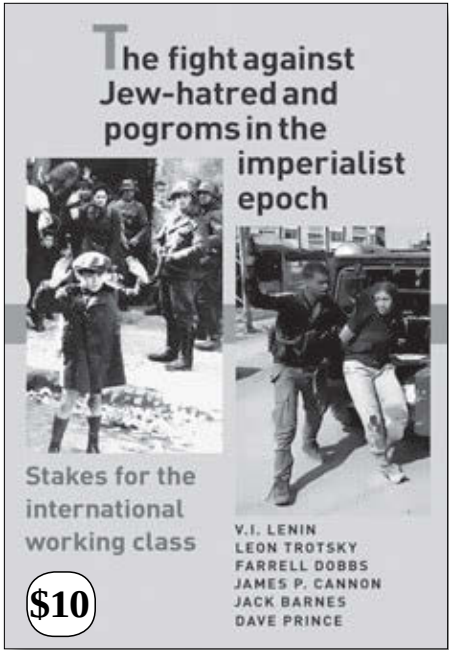
Both visits underline the class reality that the decisive defeat of Hamas remains a precondition to open space for Jews, Palestinians and other work-

ers and oppressed peoples here and across the region to find a way forward, *together*. To forge a road through common class struggle; to build a revolutionary workers party; and to join in the worldwide battle to defeat the capitalist rulers and their imperialist order, a crises-wracked system dragging humanity toward another Holocaust for the Jews and a nuclear World War III.



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Site of Oct. 7, 2023, Nova Festival in Israel, now a memorial to some 400 mainly young participants murdered or taken hostage in Hamas pogrom there solely because they were Jews.



pathfinderpress.com

Keen interest in Pathfinder books at American Library Association conference

BY ILONA GERSH

CHICAGO — Just under 15,000 people attended the American Library Association's 150th Conference in Chicago June 25-29, with 641 exhibitors coming from 61 different countries.

The Pathfinder booth drew people interested in books on crucial questions facing workers today.

Pathfinder keeps in print the lessons of revolutionary working-class struggles by Karl Marx and Frederick En-

gels; leaders of the Bolshevik Revolution, like V.I. Lenin; Cuban revolutionaries Fidel Castro and Che Guevara; Malcolm X; as well as titles by leaders of the Socialist Workers Party.

Several young people who stopped at the booth bought armloads of books. One was Joanna Ruiz Legarda, a library science student at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. “Access to knowledge is essential to the class struggle,” she told the *Militant*.

Maxine Nebro, a young worker staffing a nearby booth, said that Washington's recent threats against Cuba led him to “focus on learning about the history of socialism.” He bought 10 books about Cuba from Pathfinder, including *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party.

“These books shed light on the support that the Cubans gave to other revolutionaries around the world,” he added. Nebro lives in New York and was interested in finding out about protests there calling for an end to Washington's sanctions and threats against Cuba.

A prominent display of Pathfinder books printed in Spanish, as well as French, Arabic and Farsi, attracted the attention of many librarians who are looking to expand their Spanish-language collections.

A total of 114 books, seven subscriptions to the *Militant* and 25 single copies of the paper were sold at the booth.

Best-sellers included *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Victor Dreke; *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women* by Evelyn Reed, Joseph Hansen and Mary-Alice Waters; *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity: The Long View of History* by Frederick Engels, George Novack, Karl Marx and Mary-Alice Waters; *Thomas Sankara Speaks*; and *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* by Asela de los Santos, Vilma Espín and Yolanda Ferrer.

More than 75 librarians and others signed up to get more information on Pathfinder titles or to have a Pathfinder salesperson contact them after the conference.



Militant/Salm Kolis

The Pathfinder booth at the American Library Association conference June 25-29 drew wide interest. More than 75 librarians signed up for more information, 114 books were purchased.

UN debates US Cuba blockade

Continued from front page

“Now, the energy blockade, equivalent to a naval blockade, has been added, which is an act of war,” he said. “Access to fuel supplies to Cuba, both commercial and humanitarian, is being prevented through direct threats, unilateral coercive actions, and even the harassment or intimidation of tankers by U.S. naval forces.”

To address the recent sharp intensification of the longstanding economic and political war waged by Washington, the Cuban government requested an urgent debate be held during the 80th session of the U.N. on the “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.”

Washington did everything it could to prevent the debate, including pressure from the State Department on several of its embassies. “Should the debate proceed, the U.S. asks its allies to attack Cuba in their speeches, accusing it of incompetence, corruption and economic failure, and to avoid blaming the embargo for the crisis,” *Granma* wrote July 7, quoting a State Department cable.

Despite Washington’s bullying, the proposal to hold the debate was approved by a vote of 136 delegates in favor, nine opposed, led by the U.S., and 30 abstaining.

This is the first time Cuba has requested a special debate leading up to a U.N. General Assembly vote, which has been held annually, on a resolution to end the embargo.

Rodríguez told the Assembly, “There have been repeated threats of military aggression from the highest levels of the U.S. government, and public sources describe war options and preparations.

“In addition to the economic, commercial and financial blockade, unprecedented and extremely extraterritorial actions are being taken,” he said, “such as the use of secondary sanctions that follow the macabre plan to provoke a humanitarian crisis in Cuba and the total destabilization of the country, paving the way for or forcing a presidential order for an imperialist military intervention that would cause a bloodbath and countless losses of Cuban and American lives.”

After the 1959 Cuban Revolution when the new government of workers and farmers nationalized American-owned businesses, President Dwight Eisenhower imposed a partial trade embargo, followed by the implementation of a near-total embargo by

President John Kennedy in 1962.

Rodríguez gave updated figures for the financial damages the blockade has caused today, reaching \$8 billion between March 2025 and February 2026. This does not include the oil blockade that began in February.

“There is no American blockade,” claimed Michael Waltz, U.S. ambassador to the U.N., arguing that the dire economic conditions faced by the Cuban people are all caused by the Cuban government itself, not by the “so-called blockade.”

Waltz also denigrated the thousands of Cuban medical workers who, since the Cuban Revolution, have volunteered their services in many countries around the world, saving countless lives. He called them “Cuba’s modern-day slave trade.” In addition, Waltz falsely claimed, “Cuban Christians have been persecuted, dissidents are sent to labor camps, Afro-Cubans are rounded up.”

Rodríguez pointed out that Waltz, in addition to the slanders, was refusing to address the issues in the debate. “This is not surprising, because he represents the government responsible for the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the government responsible for the dozens of military interventions, and the government that has supported the most brutal military dictatorships in Latin America and other regions.”

Support widespread from delegates

Many U.N. delegates and representatives of regional organizations spoke in opposition to the U.S. blockade, expressing concern about crisis conditions faced in Cuba.

Issa Konfourou of Mali, speaking for the U.N.’s African Group, said that since the General Assembly voted in its overwhelming majority last October calling for an end to the U.S. embargo of Cuba, “that call has not been heeded.”

Konfourou said Washington has now gone even further in targeting Cuba’s energy sector. “This reaches well beyond the longstanding embargo,” he said, “drawing third states into enforcement of a policy that this body has condemned year after year.”

He concluded by saying, “The African Group will remain firm in its principled position of solidarity with Cuba, its people and government.”

Ambassador Burhan Gafoor of Singapore, speaking for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, said, “It is fundamentally the well-being of ordinary Cubans that lies at the heart of our



U.N. photo/Manuel Elías

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez told U.N. General Assembly July 7 that U.S. governments’ decadeslong economic, political war has become more “ruthless in last seven months.”

shared concern.” In addition to calling for an end to the U.S. oil blockade, he called on Washington to delist Cuba as a “state sponsor of terrorism.”

Speaking for the Non-Aligned Movement, Ambassador Adonia Ayebare of Uganda called on the United States to cease its “escalation against the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and self-determination of the Republic of Cuba.”

Representing the Group of 77 and China, Ambassador Laura Dupuy Lasserre of Uruguay said the group “calls for the immediate, complete and unconditional lifting of the embargo.” She called the Helms-Burton Act “a transgression to the freedom of commerce,” because its purpose is to punish a country that has the courage to trade with Cuba.

One of the final speakers was the

U.N. representative of Cape Verde, Tania Serafim Yvonne Romualdo. “Cabo Verde and Cuba continue to enjoy longstanding relations of friendship, built on solidarity, mutual respect and shared values. Cuba has made invaluable contributions to our national development.”

Cuba’s Rodríguez concluded, “A people that has been fighting for its freedom and independence for more than 150 years and that has written pages of glory standing up to resist all attacks, will defend its independence and sovereignty at all costs.

“In the year of the centenary of the historical leader of the Cuban Revolution, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, faithful to his legacy, the decision of the Cuban people will always be: Homeland or death. We shall overcome.”

Protests press for end to US attacks



Granma

Despite fuel shortages caused by U.S. oil blockade, over 250,000 Cubans rallied in Havana May 22 against Washington’s war threats, indictment of Raúl Castro, a leader of Cuba’s revolution.

Continued from front page

The protest got an overwhelmingly positive reception among passersby, many of whom joined in opposing the U.S. rulers’ brutal strangulation of the Cuban people. Some joined in chanting “U.S. hands off Cuba!”

“They want to return Cuba to what it was before, full of casinos and corruption,” said one passerby, originally from Cuba, who didn’t support the Cuban government but was opposed to Washington’s attacks. “Nobody wants a military intervention in Cuba.”

Picket participants passed out a fair amount of literature describing the impact of the U.S. measures. A tour-bus driver bought the *Militant* and the new

Pathfinder book *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban revolutionary leader Víctor Dreke. He noted the potential of U.S. interference in other countries in Latin America, and the danger of other countries not standing up in defense of Cuba. “If they think the U.S. government won’t do it to them, they’re wrong,” he said. “I am glad you’re doing this to raise awareness.”

The NY/NJ Cuba Sí Coalition is planning a public meeting July 25 to celebrate the opening of the Cuban Revolution on July 26, 1953. For further information, contact cubasiny-njcoalition.org.

Imperialism’s crises, march to war



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Ebola rampant in Congo today, Cuba key in fight to defeat it in 2015

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In the face of government indifference to the deadly impact of the spread of the Ebola virus in the northeast Democratic Republic of Congo, doctors, nurses and other medical personnel went on strike July 7 over the fact they've never been paid and the abysmal working conditions they face as they fight to save lives.

The epidemic is all the more challenging as the center of the outbreak is in areas where reactionary Islamic rebels have been battling Congo's army for control over the country's rich natural resources, including gold mines.

Little to nothing is being done by the imperialist powers — from the

AS I SEE IT

U.S. to France to U.K. — to try to stem the fastest spreading Ebola outbreak ever recorded.

The outbreak is being driven by the rare Bundibugyo species of Ebola, for which there are no approved vaccines or treatments.

Since mid-May the Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo has killed 600 people, the World Health Organization reported July 9. This is 100 more than the figure it reported three days earlier. By July 14 deaths had risen to 754 out of 2,011 confirmed cases.

This is in sharp contrast to what revolutionary Cuba did 12 years earlier, sending skilled medical volunteers to counter a spreading Ebola epidemic in several West African countries.

"We should be paid for this work that we are doing. We work every day — there is no day that we are on break," doctor Blaise Mugisa, told the *Washington Post*. He works at Rwampara hospital in Ituri province, one of the areas hardest hit by the virus. "We leave home early in the morning, and we come late at night. Our families we leave at home have nothing to eat," he said.

Doctors and other healthcare workers say they have not been provided with adequate supplies and gear to properly treat Ebola patients. In some cases, Mugisa said, they've been treating patients for months before they realized what the virus was. Under these conditions increased numbers of doctors and nurses have been infected. At Rwampara hospital, five doctors and 17 nurses have died since the outbreak.



AP Photo/Prosper Heri Ngorora

Medical workers at Ebola treatment center on strike over unpaid wages and abysmal working conditions, outside Rwampara hospital in Ituri, Democratic Republic of Congo, July 13.

Mugisa told the *Post* that in addition to losing doctor friends, his extended family has been devastated — losing 23 members since the outbreak began, some of whom he treated himself.

A report recently released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention acknowledged that this Ebola outbreak could become the most devastating in history.

The CDC said more people are needed in its Ready Responder program. But so far this fiscal year, they've taken on only 38 new hires, and they're far away from doing anything. The CDC says it currently has 27 staff in the Congo assisting "case investigations and contact-tracing" and others providing "technical assistance," but no one offering direct medical treatment to patients.

Cuban volunteers set different course

Compare this to what the Cuban volunteers did in 2014-15 in leading the effort worldwide to uproot the Ebola epidemic from Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

In August and September 2014, the World Health Organization and the governments of these countries issued an international appeal for help in combating the first Ebola epidemic. Cuba's revolutionary government responded rapidly.

Within three days of a call to Cuban President Raúl Castro from Ban Ki-moon, then secretary-general of the United Nations, more than 12,000 Cuban medical professionals volunteered.

From those volunteers, 256 Cuban doctors, nurses and healthcare technicians were selected and trained for the mission. They were given intensive training in handling the highly lethal virus and within weeks were on their way.

Instead of providing doctors, the U.S. rulers sent 500 soldiers to Liberia to build hospitals and other facilities and to look out for Washington's interests. Their eyes were firmly focused on maintaining capitalist stability, not saving lives.

The story of what the Cubans accomplished over the next eight months in virtually eradicating this disease is described in the book *Red Zone*:

Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa by Enrique Ubieta Gómez.

Cuba "provided what was most needed and what no other country even tried to deliver: hundreds of doctors, nurses, technicians, and public health specialists *on the ground, caring for thousands of desperately ill human beings and their families and communities traumatized by the killer disease*," Mary-Alice Waters and Róger Calero write in the book's Preface.

Their efforts were a product of the transformation of working people made possible by carrying out a socialist revolution and by the proletarian internationalist course advanced by the revolution's leadership.

"The medical personnel who will go anywhere to save lives, even at risk of losing their own, are the greatest example of solidarity a human being can offer, above all because they aren't motivated by material interest," Fidel Castro, the central leader of the Cuban Revolution, said at the opening of Cuba's Ebola mission in October 2014.

U.S. rulers slander Cuban doctors

This has been true from the earliest days of Cuba's medical missions in the 1960s to the dozens of countries where Cuban doctors provide care today.

President Donald Trump's administration, as part of the capitalist rulers' drive over decades to overturn Cuba's socialist revolution, is slandering these medical missions today and pressuring governments to end them. Secretary of State Marco Rubio claims the contributions of Cuban doctors abroad are "forced labor," part of a system of "state-sponsored human-trafficking brigades."

His claims are exposed as a bald-faced lie by the experiences of millions of workers and farmers worldwide who have gotten desperately needed care from Cuban medical personnel.

"My dad could hardly see, but thank God his eye turned out well," José Enamorado, a plaitain farmer in Honduras, told the *Wall Street Journal*. He said his father received free cataract surgery from Cuban doctors last year that otherwise would have been unaffordable at \$2,000. "The Cuban doctors brought hope to a lot of people."



Cuban Medical Brigade in Guinea

Cuban medical workers with patients being discharged after treatment for Ebola in the Coyah region of Guinea, Jan. 19, 2015. Their selfless work was a product of Cuba's internationalism.

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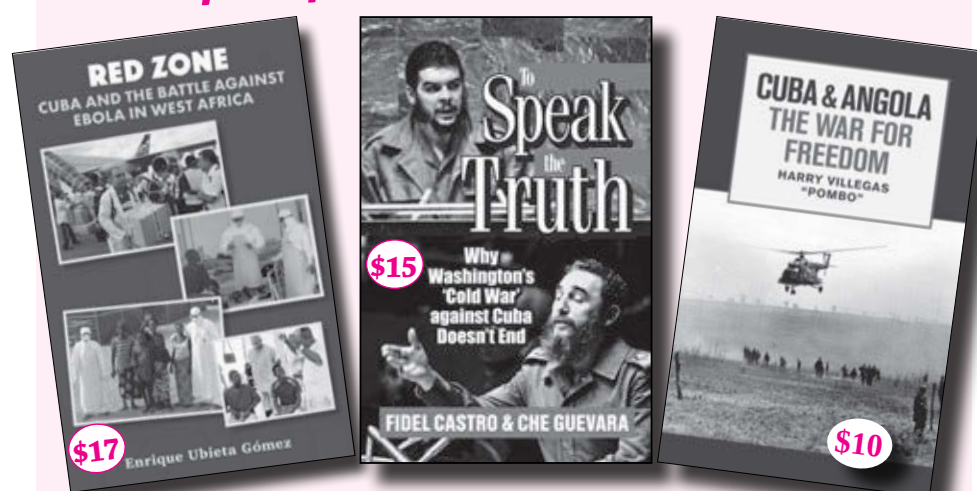
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Example of Cuba's socialist revolution



"Just as the Cuban combatants in Angola set an example that can never be erased, the heroic actions of Cuba's army of white coats in Africa will occupy a place of honor."

Fidel Castro, October 2014

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The road to build a revolutionary party in the imperialist epoch

The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes is one of the Books of the Month. Barnes has led the political course of the SWP to build a communist party whose members and leaders in their large majority are workers and unionists and whose goal is to organize workers to forge and strengthen the trade unions and lead the working class and its allies toward a successful socialist revolution. This book describes this perspective. Copyright © 2020 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JACK BARNES

The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party is about the working-class program, composition, and course of conduct of the only kind of party worthy of the name “revolutionary” in the imperialist epoch. The only kind of party that can recognize the most revolutionary fact of this epoch — the worth of working people, and our power to change society when we organize and act against the capitalists and all the economic, social, and political forms of their class rule.

This book is about building such a party in the United States and in other capitalist countries around the



V.I. Lenin, central leader of Bolshevik Party in Russia, speaks in May 1920. Revolution brought workers and peasants to power there. The SWP aims to build on this example in the U.S.

world. It is about the course the Socialist Workers Party and its predecessors have followed for one hundred years and counting.

“We will not succeed in rooting the party in the working class, much less in defending the revolutionary proletarian principles of the party from being undermined, unless the party is an overwhelmingly proletarian party, composed in its decisive majority of workers in the factories, mines, and mills,” emphasized resolutions adopted by the SWP convention in 1938. The party must become “an inseparable part of the trade unions and their struggles.” It must be an inseparable part of daily battles waged by the working class and other exploited producers to defend ourselves and our families against the brutal consequences of capitalist oppression.

That orientation — the course of the Bolsheviks under V.I. Lenin in leading the workers and peasants to power in October 1917 — has been our strategic course since a communist party was founded in the United States two years later, along with others affiliating to the new Communist International. The new party had one sole aim — emulating the Bolsheviks’ example. The SWP is the direct descendant of that party.

With the rise of industrial capitalism some two hundred fifty years ago, conflicts between workers and employers increasingly took on “the character

of collisions between two classes,” explained Karl Marx and Frederick Engels in the Communist Manifesto, the founding program of the revolutionary workers movement. In face of the capitalists’ cutthroat drive for profits, workers have no choice but to “club together in order to keep up the rate of wages” and resist employers’ push to extend the workday and speed up production, with cold disregard for our health and safety. Inevitably, workers “begin to form combinations (trade unions)” against the employing class.

Some two centuries of class-struggle experience have confirmed that such “combinations” take many initial forms — from acts of resistance on the job; to battles against company lockouts; to strikes, organizing drives, and campaigns to expand union power. ...

Over the years since the SWP made what has become known as the turn to industry, the imperialist order has sunk into deeper and deeper crisis: declining profit rates; intensifying global capitalist competition; stagnation in capital investment to expand plant, equipment, and industrial employment; mounting pressures toward currency wars; and unending military conflicts. Workers and our families face attacks by the capitalist class, its government, and its Democratic and Republican parties, with their “socialist” wings, on our living and job conditions — on our very life and limb.

The rulers’ blows don’t fall evenly or with the same force on all sections of working people. Inequalities are widening not only between social classes but within the working class itself. ...

But the necessity — and opportunities — for working people, non-union and union alike, to be bold, to organize ourselves, and to mobilize mutual solidarity have seldom been greater. And necessity is pushing us in that direction. ...

The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party stands on the revolutionary continuity of the Socialist Workers Party, explained and defended some eight decades ago in In Defense of Marxism by Leon Trotsky and The Struggle for a Proletarian Party by James P. Cannon. The articles and correspondence in those two books record the successful effort to maintain a communist course in face of an opposition in the party and its youth organization that began bending to imperialist pressure and public opinion during Washington’s buildup to enter World War II.

“The opposition is under the sway of petty-bourgeois moods and tendencies. This is the essence of the whole matter,” Trotsky wrote in December 1939 in one of his articles collected in In Defense of Marxism. “Any serious factional fight in a party is always in the final analysis a reflection of the class struggle.” That’s why, as Trotsky explained in a letter written a few weeks later, “The class composition of the party must correspond to its class program.”

Trotsky had become by mid-1917 a central part of the Bolshevik leadership forged by Lenin that led the workers and peasants of Russia in making the October 1917 revolution and two years later launching the Communist International. In 1929, some half a decade after Lenin’s death, Joseph Stalin banished Trotsky from the Soviet Union for leading the fight to continue Lenin’s proletarian internationalist policies. Trotsky did so in direct political opposition to the rising petty bourgeois layers in the USSR whose privileges and interests were increasingly safeguarded by Stalin. Proletarian revolutionists the world over, including Cannon and other leaders of what became the Socialist Workers Party, joined with Trotsky in founding a new world communist movement loyal to Lenin’s course.

July

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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10 The Militant July 27, 2026

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Montreal Metro supermarket strikers reject low wage offer

MONTREAL — After almost three months on strike, 550 workers at Metro supermarket's fruit and vegetable warehouse in Laval, its drivers at the warehouse in Rivieres-des-Prairies, and its office workers at its headquarters in Montreal rejected the company's latest proposal by 95%. The vote was held at a mass membership meeting June 18 of the United Grocers Workers Union, which is part of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN).

"Most people thought the company's wage offer wasn't enough. We know we deserve better," Georges Evens, a picket captain who has worked in the warehouse for 15 years, told the *Militant*. "It's very physically demanding work, done in the cold." Workers face a lot of shoulder and lower back injuries.

All the strikers, whose real wages have been declining for years, are demanding raises that keep up with inflation and more, to make up for concessions in their last six-year contract. Metro's initial wage proposal was 11% over six years to the highest-paid workers and only 1% a year to the lowest paid, well below the rising cost of living.

"We'll fight as long as we need to," striker Sonny Marcil said.

Metro Inc. is one of the two largest supermarket chains in Quebec, with 670 stores, and one of the three largest chains across Canada. Their 2025 profits were more than \$1 billion Canadian dollars (\$710 million).

In the first few days of the strike Metro obtained a court injunction barring workers from picketing within 5 meters (15 feet) of facility entrances. That means they can't stop production.

The union filed a complaint against Metro in May with the Administrative Labour Tribunal for using both strikebreakers and contract labor as scabs. The tribunal ruled on April 22 that Metro was in fact using strikebreakers, despite its denials. However, as of July 13 it hasn't taken any action against the company.

"Workers are angry: Metro using scabs is simply unacceptable," union President Matthieu Lafontaine said.

Solidarity is crucial. The outcome of this fight will have an impact on the ability of other workers to fight for better wages and working conditions. The Metro workers are picketing at the two warehouses 24/7 and at the head office during business hours. Join them!

— Francois Bradette
and Steve Penner

Chicago Teamsters strike for first contract at Open Kitchens

CHICAGO — "We want a union, we want respect," Ernesto Patino told the *Militant* on the strike picket line outside Open Kitchens here July 6. "And we need a raise. We have to take care of our families and pay the bills." The strikers deliver meals to Chicago Public Schools and other customers throughout the Chicago area. The drivers and helpers, members of Teamsters Local 703, walked off the job June 26.

The workers voted to join the Teamsters last year, "but the company has continued to intimidate workers and drag out negotiations instead of reaching a collective bargaining agreement," the union told the press.

Open Kitchens "pays helpers \$18 an hour and drivers \$20," said Patino, a member of the union bargaining committee. He has worked as a helper for five years without getting a raise. In addition to pay, the strikers are demanding basic union protections, like the right to bid on routes by seniority and for recall rights after seasonal layoffs.

"The company has been firing union supporters," Giovan Scianna, business agent for Local 703, told the *Militant*. "When we voted in the union there were about 40 drivers and helpers, now it's closer to 20." The union says those firings and the company's stalling of negotiations are the grounds for the strike.

"We've had a lot of support from other Teamsters locals," helping fill out the picket line, Scianna added. This includes members of Teamsters Local 710 who are on strike themselves at nearby BreakThru Beverage. "And we've visited their picket line."

The 115 drivers at BreakThru in Cicero have been on strike since early May. One of the central issues is the



Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN)

Striking Metro supermarket workers in Montreal rejected company's latest contract offer June 18 by 95%. Some 550 unionists are fighting for wage raises to keep up with rising prices.

company insists they give up the right to honor other workers' picket lines. Last year, they refused to cross when striking drivers who had recently joined the Teamsters at BreakThru facilities in Florida picketed their warehouse. The Florida workers won their first contract in October.

Visit the picket lines to show your support! Join the picket at Open Kitchens at 3348 S. Pulaski Road. The picket line at BreakThru Beverage, at 3333 S. Laramie Ave, Cicero, is up around the clock Monday through Friday.

— Naomi Craine

Hilton workers rally, demand same pay as at area hotels

EMERYVILLE, Calif. — Workers fighting for a contract at the Hilton Garden Inn here organized a spirited picket and rally July 9, joined by supporters from other union hotels in the area.

"We the workers at the Hilton Garden Inn Emeryville are fighting for the same pay and benefits that other Local 2 members have already won," a flyer distributed by UNITE HERE Local 2 says. "Hilton Garden management recently made a proposal to our negotiator that would make us permanent second class workers. Why should we make less?"

The bosses' proposal would raise wages \$7.50 an hour for non-tipped workers over the three-year contract —

the pattern in other East Bay union hotel contracts — but wouldn't grant the additional \$2 raise workers should have gotten in 2022, nor allow for retroactive or daily room cleaning pay. Workers at two nearby Hyatt hotels, owned by the same company as the Hilton, get the \$2 an hour higher wage.

Pickets were joined by members of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3299, who were holding a leadership conference at the hotel. That union represents service, patient care and craft workers at University of California campuses. Their president, Michael Avant, brought greetings to the rally, as did the UNITE HERE representative at the Hilton, Xitlali Sanchez.

— Maggie Trowe

Hotel workers fight to make Philadelphia an all-union city

PHILADELPHIA — Three days after winning a contract through a nine-day strike at the Sheraton Downtown, UNITE HERE Local 274 workers from that hotel were on the picket line at the Hilton Garden Inn July 2 supporting their union brothers and sisters who are demanding a contract. The Hilton Garden Inn is the last of 10 hotels organized by UNITE HERE Local 274 without a contract.

The workers carried "Hotel workers ready to STRIKE" signs and chanted "What do we want? Contract now!" and "Philly is a union town."

The workers at the Hilton are demanding the same "citywide union standard" contract UNITE HERE won at the nine other union hotels. That includes wage increases for tipped workers, a raise to \$30 per hour for non-tipped jobs, expanded family healthcare coverage, an increased pension contribution by the company, and a housekeeper's daily room workload lowered from 16 to 15 rooms.

The union called the action after learning the bosses — owner ACRES Commercial Realty and manager GF Hotels & Resorts — made a "last and final offer" to the union workers that falls short of the local's demands.

The hotel has been laying off union members, ignoring union seniority and combining jobs to cut the workforce. After winning a victory at the Hilton Garden Inn, the local plans to fight to organize the nonunion hotels in Philadelphia.

— Osborne Hart, UNITE HERE
Local 274 member

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

July 30, 2001

A classified Pentagon strategy document elevates "homeland defense" into one of the four pillars of U.S. imperialist military doctrine and gives the military domestic duties in battling terrorism.

The rulers know they must confront working people who are resisting and who will ultimately fight for power as the ravages of the world capitalist economic crisis and the brutalities of the old social order take an increasing toll, both in other countries and in the United States.

In *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes explains that the rulers "know they will face more and bigger battles as international capitalist competition drives them to slash wages, extend the workday, intensify speedup, cut social security protections and crush the unions. And they are preparing to defend their class interests."

THE MILITANT

July 30, 1976

In forty-five minutes of questioning on July 14, FBI agent Joseph Furrer cited his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination some eighty times — about once every thirty seconds.

Furrer was responding to Federal Judge Thomas Griesa's order to testify under oath in the Socialist Workers Party lawsuit against government harassment.

His refusal a week earlier to answer questions as basic as whether he worked for the FBI made him the first agent in history to take the Fifth Amendment.

The socialists wanted to question Furrer because — according to the U.S. attorneys handling the government's case — he is in charge of New York's FBI operations against the SWP, and has been since 1971.

Another hearing on Furrer's response to questioning is scheduled for July 23.

THE MILITANT

July 30, 1951

How can the war in Asia be brought to a permanent close? Only by the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea and from all of Asia. The Asian people have expressed a universal determination to clean out the gangs that have ridden their backs for so long. They have expressed that determination with arms in hand and with their lives staked upon the outcome.

They will never make peace with foreign imperialism. In their places, we would act the same way, and did act that way in 1776. If their leaders betray them to foreign imperialism, they will dump these leaders and get others.

The American people have made it clear, what kind of a foreign policy they want — the troops withdrawn from Korea and fair recognition of the existing governments in Asia, including the New China. Short of this foreign policy, we do not have any chance for peace.

Working-class road to stop new imperialist wars

From Washington’s war against Iran, to Beijing’s military expansion in the Pacific, Moscow’s war to conquer Ukraine, and squabbles over who will dominate Europe, the capitalist rulers worldwide are preparing for new wars to redivide the world for their profit and plunder at the expense of their rivals.

Each is driven by the fact that more wars, with horrific consequences in the nuclear era, are inevitable. They’re increasing war production and their armed forces, and developing ever-more deadly weapons.

The U.S. rulers emerged from World War II as the dominant imperialist power. They act more and more on the conviction that the world’s natural resources and the labor of working people everywhere are theirs to take. Cuba’s socialist revolution is a special target of their assaults today, because of the powerful example it sets to working people the world over.

Alongside these spreading conflicts, Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom announced plans, backed by Tehran, to advance the group’s longstanding threat of carrying out a new Holocaust.

The reality of the imperialist epoch we’re living in was first explained by Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin during the First World War.

“For the first time the world is completely divided up, so that in the future *only* redivision is possible, i.e., territory can only pass from one ‘owner’ to another,” Lenin wrote. “An essential feature of imperialism is the rivalry between several great powers in the striving for hegemony, i.e., for the conquest of territory, not so much directly for themselves as to

weaken the adversary and undermine *his* hegemony.”

Imperialism has already bred two world wars, the Nazi Holocaust, the unleashing of nuclear destruction, and countless other atrocities. The rulers’ struggles to repartition the world under their subjugation, Lenin explained, inevitably provokes explosive struggles for national liberation and moves by working people in the advanced capitalist world to free ourselves from exploitation and oppression.

Just as inevitably, when sections of the ruling class think their dog-eat-dog system is producing a growing challenge by the working people they exploit, they turn to fascist thugs to unleash deadly assaults on oppressed nationalities, unionists and vanguard workers. The capitalists target Jews as a scapegoat for their own brutal rule, promoting pogroms like the Hitler regime did across Europe in World War II.

After the U.S. rulers dropped atom bombs on Japan, they declared they had won the war. “There Is No Peace!” was the banner headline on that week’s *Militant*. It contained a manifesto by the Socialist Workers Party’s National Committee saying, “Only World Socialism Can Save Mankind From Atomic Destruction in Another Imperialist War! Workers Of America! You Must Take Power Into Your Own Hands!”

The SWP acts on that course today. Join us in building the proletarian party and leadership that is needed to organize millions of workers to take power from the capitalist war makers, to make socialist revolutions in a growing number of countries worldwide. This is the only road to peace.

Rivalries deepen as NATO powers step up war drive

Continued from front page

gic resources from competing capitalist blocs has accelerated sharply since Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine and the spread of wars across the Middle East.

Washington is seeking to shore up U.S. imperialism’s weakening global dominance, embroiled in an on-and-off war in the Middle East. Just before the summit Trump berated “allied” governments of the U.K., Germany, France and Italy for their refusal to let U.S. warplanes use their bases and airspace to bomb Iran. In the middle of the summit he announced the ceasefire deal with Tehran was over and U.S. forces were launching renewed airstrikes.

Greenland “should be controlled by the United States, not by Denmark,” Trump told the NATO meeting in the face of opposition from the heads of imperialist governments in Europe. Greenland is “surrounded by Chinese ships and Russian ships,” he said. Trump has long accused Washington’s NATO “allies” of being unable to defend Greenland in the face of the expanding military presence in the Arctic by Moscow and Beijing.

To stress its dominance, the Pentagon recently shifted authority over its military base in Greenland from its European Command in Germany to its Northern Command based in Colorado.

Days before the summit, governments in NATO agreed to increase their military spending to 5% of their gross domestic product, as demanded by Trump, with the exception of the Spanish rulers. Madrid is “a terrible partner in NATO,” Trump complained.

Last year, his administration’s National Security Strategy document announced a shift of U.S. military forces away from Europe.

The Pentagon announced May 1 it plans to withdraw 5,000 troops from Germany. This will reduce the U.S. troop presence in Europe to the level it was before Moscow’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Some 80,000 U.S. troops in Europe are stationed in more than 40 military bases, from the U.K. to Turkey. They remain key to asserting U.S. power on the continent and around the world.

During the summit, German Chancellor Fried-

rich Merz struck a deal with Trump to buy U.S. Tomahawk cruise missiles. Berlin is accelerating its own weapons manufacturing and armed forces expansion after decades of relying on its economic clout, not military power, to assert its domination within the European Union.

Trump praised the summit’s host, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. In recent years the Turkish rulers have expanded their leverage in Syria and advanced military ties with Moscow. In 2020 Washington sanctioned NATO “ally” Turkey after Erdogan ordered the purchase of S-400 missile systems from Moscow. But today Washington is keen to bolster relations with the Turkish government as it drives to extend its reach in the Middle East.

Trump is now weighing selling advanced F-35 stealth fighters to Ankara, but this is strongly opposed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The Turkish rulers are seeking to replace the weakened Iranian regime as a key power in the Middle East, while voicing support for Hamas and calling for an end to the existence of Israel.

White House shift on Ukraine

The day before the NATO summit began, Ukrainian drones flew over 1,500 miles, evading Moscow’s air defenses, to hit Russia’s largest oil refinery at Omsk in Siberia. In recent months all 10 of Russia’s largest refineries have been struck, disabling much of the country’s refining capacity and causing rampant fuel shortages.

At the summit, Trump announced his backing for Ukraine’s drone strikes deep inside Russia.

In response, Moscow is escalating its deadly aerial assaults on Ukrainian population centers, with devastating consequences. Ukraine has run critically low on U.S.-made Patriot rockets, which are its main defense against ballistic missiles. Moscow is on course to set a monthly record high, firing 70 ballistic missiles July 1-14. Ukraine’s air defenses were only able to intercept nine of them. Kyiv has appealed to governments in Europe for more Patriot interceptors.

Trump said Ukrainian manufacturers could be licensed to make the U.S. interceptors, but getting production going would take years. Washington’s actions, as always, are not intended to offer unconditional support to Ukraine’s defense of its sovereignty, but to gain leverage to advance the U.S. capitalist rulers’ own interests in the region and worldwide.

Protests hit ICE killings

Continued from front page

ers to work. The Department of Homeland Security said ICE agents, who weren’t wearing body cameras, tried to stop his vehicle during a targeted immigration enforcement operation. ICE claimed Salgado “weaponized his vehicle” and struck an ICE vehicle, then drove at an officer, prompting the agent to fire in self-defense.

Two days later, ICE changed its story, admitting its agents had been after someone else who had a van similar to the one Salgado was driving.

His family disputed the government’s version of events in a news conference July 8. They say Salgado understood his rights and he would have cooperated with immigration officials. They believe he may have thought he was being confronted by criminals because the agents were driving unmarked vehicles.

There was a march of over 1,000 in the largely Latino neighborhood where Salgado’s family lives July 8, protesting the killing and demanding an independent investigation. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum also condemned the killing.

Youth in the neighborhood refer to Mr. Salgado as Don Lorenzo, a title of respect.

Salgado had been in the U.S. for 35 years, his family said. He was in the process of getting legal work papers.

“He wanted nothing else in life but to provide for his wife and see his sons become great people,” Ronaldo Salgado, his eldest son, said. “That’s how I want the world to know my father: not as someone who got shot and killed, but as a family man, a man who understood that good things come to those who put in hard work.

“I learned of my father’s passing from a news report on social media,” his son said. “He did not deserve to die. I am calling for a full investigation into the events that transpired yesterday.”

The three other construction workers who had been in Salgado’s van said ICE’s account of his death was false. They are being held in ICE detention.

“After speaking with these three men,” said Hugo Balderas-Ibarra, their attorney, “I have no doubt that what these ICE agents are saying is completely false.”

A key challenge to the fight that is needed is the actions of some ultraleft middle-class radicals, who often show up masked and dressed for combat, and organize violent confrontations against ICE agents. Some were recently given outrageously long sentences stemming from an attack on an immigration detention center in Alvarado, Texas. They are an obstacle to mobilizing the support that exists among workers for defending immigrant rights and opposing raids that target fellow workers.

“The death of Salgado underscores the necessity of a union-led fight for amnesty for all immigrants without papers in the U.S., to remove their pariah status and the fear of deportation, and to advance the road toward working-class unity in coming fights against the bosses,” the Socialist Workers Party in Dallas-Fort Worth said in a statement. “We urge working people and youth to join in the next protest this Sunday, July 19, in the Ervan Chew Park in Houston at 2 p.m.”

AS WE GO TO PRESS ...

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Photos show at least four bullet holes in the driver’s window of his car. Agents don’t claim he was a threat to them, but that he was attempting to flee and they “feared for public safety.”

The Maine Immigrants’ Rights Coalition said Guerrero was authorized to work in the U.S. Neither man was the target of an ICE operation, but agents in both cases decided to chase their vehicles, leading to them being shot.

Widespread anger over the killings led ICE officials to announce July 14 they will suspend the use of traffic stops to arrest or question immigrants. In addition, the agency said they will no longer send officers out to make arrests unless at least one person on the team is wearing a body camera. No agents wore cameras in either the Texas or Maine killings.

President Donald Trump responded by urging DHS officials to reinstate traffic stops.

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